



Broadview

GREEN GRID

JULY 2003

WELCOME

Welcome to the third issue of the Broadview Green Grid newsletter provided by the City of Seattle to keep you informed about project progress over the next year. The construction contract has been awarded to Gary Merlino Construction and they will be starting construction at the end of August or early September. As soon as we receive a construction schedule from the contractor (this should happen towards the end of July), we will schedule a public meeting on construction activities. We are expecting this will be scheduled for the week of August 11th or the week of August 18th. We will notify you of this meeting in a separate mailing and hope to see you there!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce another important member of our project team. Cynthia Blazina will be serving as the Seattle Public Utilities

Resident Engineer, meaning she will be on-site, in your neighborhood, during construction. Her role is to coordinate and oversee the work of the contractor throughout the duration of the project. Cynthia is experienced in natural drainage systems as she managed the construction of the original SEA Street.

Once construction starts, you can contact Cynthia if you have any access issues that need immediate attention. For questions and concerns that do not require immediate attention, and until construction starts, please continue to use me as your main contact for all project issues. You can reach Cynthia by phone at (206) 423-2583 or by email at cynthia.blazina@seattle.gov.

Have a great summer!

Jim Johnson

Project Manager

SPOTLIGHT

In the previous two newsletters, we introduced natural drainage systems, their benefits and why they are needed. In this issue we would like to provide you with some information about how they work.

In an undeveloped landscape, rainfall is slowly absorbed into the soils of the natural environment. Hard and impervious surfaces, such as rooftops and pavement do not absorb rainwater and so it flows in a rush to Seattle's creeks. The purpose of natural drainage systems is to help slow the water down, reduce the flashi-

ness of creek flows, thereby reducing erosion, and giving pollutants a chance to settle out and get treated before the runoff gets to the receiving waters, in this case, Piper's Creek.

What are these natural landscape features and how do they work?

The features described here mimic the functions of the natural environment to accomplish similar outcomes. One of the

News You Can Use: Construction Checklist

- ✓ Take time to fill out the "Green Grid/Green Picks" mailer
- ✓ Make arrangements to have personal property out of the right-of-way
- ✓ Complete a Right-of-Entry with the City
- ✓ Option to coordinate your side sewer line upgrades with our construction activities

(more details on page 2)

NEIGHBORHOOD FEEDBACK

Pre-construction Heads Up!

We realize that many of you are wondering when construction will start on your street. As soon as we have a schedule from the contractor (again, likely by the end of July) we will let you know when and where construction will be occurring. As was mentioned earlier, we will also hold a public meeting on construction activities after we receive the contractor's schedule.

We will most definitely give you a "heads up" as to when construction will begin on your street. Please note that while construction may not be occurring on your street, the contractor may store some materials on your street while they are working elsewhere. Please don't be surprised if you see some concrete

structures or piping on your street before construction begins.

Prior to the beginning of construction, you might also see our crews on your street trimming, and in some cases, removing trees. Jim or Shane will have talked to you if a tree on your property frontage is going to be removed.

There are a number of you who we have not heard from. We would like to hear from all of you before the tractors start rolling in on your street. If we haven't yet heard from you or connected with you at a public meeting, Jim will be making every effort to contact you before construction begins. We want to make sure everyone is aware of this project and the construction related activities. ❁

NEWS YOU CAN USE: CONSTRUCTION CHECKLIST



Take time to fill out the "Green Grid/Green Picks" mailer
(see Landscaping Corner section of this issue on page 3)



Make arrangements to have personal property out of the right-of-way

We realize this message has now appeared in all three newsletters. This is because it is extremely important to have all private property out of the right-of-way before construction can begin late this summer. As we have mentioned, this property includes vehicles, RVs, detached trailers, fences, walls and basketball hoops. Please make arrangements to move items out of the right-of-way by the end of July. Thank you!



Complete a Right-of-Entry with the City (you will soon be receiving this form)

A Right-of-Entry allows the City to enter and complete work on the portion of your property closest to the right-of-way. The City will not need a Right-of-Entry from all of you living in the project area, but if it is needed for your property, Carolyn Johnson, our Real Property Agent, will be sending you the necessary paperwork sometime soon. When you receive this paperwork, please take the time to fill it out and return it to Carolyn. Thank you!



Option to coordinate your side sewer line upgrades with our construction activities

We have mentioned previously that any sewer line work done to accommodate the project will not affect private property and will be done at no cost to you. However, we are suggesting that you might take this opportunity to make any needed repairs to your side sewer line. Repair to your side sewer line is not required as part of this project, but if you find a defect and repair it now, before construction, the City will waive the requirement for full restoration of the street. Typically the property owner is responsible for full restoration (on private property and in the right-of-way) when replacing the side sewer. A permit for this work must be obtained. Contact the Department of Design, Construction and Land Use (DCLU) Drainage & Sewer Review Desk at (206) 684-5362 or visit www.cityofseattle.net/dclu/sidesewer. ❁

SPOTLIGHT *Continued from page 1*

primary components of a natural drainage system is the series of vegetated swales or ponds designed to collect the water, slow the flow down, and allow some water to infiltrate back into the soil. These swales or ponds allow maximum opportunity for the typical urban pollutants to settle out, infiltrate and collect upon the vegetation that is planted in the ponds.

The special soils in the ponds act like a sponge to hold the smaller storm events in the soil mass, which in turn slows runoff. At the same time the soil helps to break down the petrochemical pollutants in the runoff, and the wetland plantings, which include sedges, help to "grab" particulates and pollutants from the runoff almost like a magnet does with steel filings. The surface of a sedge leaf is rough, almost like sandpaper, which helps with this (go to the 110th Cascade or SEA Street and feel one!).

Lots of plants and trees also help by both supporting a healthy soil structure with their roots and by transpiring moisture back into the air through the plant. Each plant plays a small role, but as a collective whole, the vegetation eliminates, by transpiration and infiltration, a significant amount of runoff by just being planted in your neighborhood.

By reconfiguring the north-south streets in a curvy fashion, it allows us to maximize the size and efficiency of the swales or ponds on these streets. Another step to improving the efficiency of natural drainage systems is by reducing the amount of runoff-generating impervious area. After we complete this project, the street width will be similar to the present width.

However, parking off the edge of the pavement on the shoulder will now be accommodated on the paved section of the roadway. A convenient benefit of these pavement design features is the reduction of "cut-through" traffic and slower vehicle speeds that result.

Another component of the system is the approach used on the east-west streets, which is a creek-like series of wide, flat-bottomed, stepped pools, designed to convey and treat the volumes of runoff from the full project area. These pools are stepped so the bottom area is almost flat, resulting in the upstream end being 5-6 feet on one end (a maximum of 4-feet from the edge of the street). The flat pool bottoms allow wetland vegetation to grow.

Some water will pool in these ponds, but never more than 1.5 feet of water, and not for longer than 3 days (72 hours) after runoff stops. 🌿



Landscaping Corner

By the time that you read this, you will have received a "Green Grid/Green Picks" mailer specifically designed to confirm the landscape-related options chosen to personalize your property frontage. If you have not done so already, please take the time to

fill it out and return it as soon as possible! Though it may be some time before we will be ready to plant along your street, we do anticipate planting of some areas as early as December.

Note that the information provided to date does not give specifics on plant quantities for each property as these are subject to change during construction. If you have not received a copy of the "Green Grid/Green Picks" mailer, please call or email Jim. He can send you a copy via regular mail or email – whichever you prefer. 🌿

UTILITIES UPDATE

In the first two newsletters, we discussed how sanitary sewer, water service and US Mail will be coordinated with this project. This month, we are providing you with some information on Natural Gas, Drainage, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) / Fire / Police and Garbage.

Natural Gas

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) will begin their work on the gas lines in your neighborhood very soon. Their work will be done in advance of the project construction work and will impact almost every street. PSE's contractor will be relocating some sections of the gas main, and possibly a portion of the gas service, to your house if the existing line is not deep enough, or is otherwise in the way of the new drainage system. PSE crews will contact you to inform you if your gas service will be interrupted. You do not need to be at home when this work occurs. If your service is interrupted, the gas crews will offer to re-light your pilot light, if you are home. If you are not home, and are unable to re-light your pilot light, you will need to coordinate with PSE to schedule an appointment.

Drainage

When construction starts on your street, please coordinate with Jim to have your downspouts and/or yard drains that

drain into the existing street edge, ditch, storm basins or pipes connected to the new system. Where we are constructing the new improvements, we will make every attempt to reconnect the downspouts or yard drains we know about.

EMS / Fire / Police

The contractor is required to maintain the street so that all emergency vehicles have access to all homes in the event of an emergency. Public Safety has been involved in the review of the construction plans and will continue to receive project updates and construction impact information from the Project Manager and Resident Engineer.

Garbage

Garbage collection will continue as usual during construction, whether it is picked up in the alley or on the street. SPU's contractor will be responsible for maintaining access for garbage collection during construction. Please call Jim if your garbage gets missed because of construction.

Who should I contact for more information?

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact:

Jim Johnson, Project Manager

Phone: **(206) 684-5829**

Email: **james.r.johnson@seattle.gov**



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